

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 11 have been amended. The Amendments made are fully supported by the specification as filed. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 2 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 2 and 11 to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Klemmer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,420,917 (hereinafter "Klemmer"). This rejection with respect to claims 1 and 6 is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Klemmer discloses a phase-locked loop circuit that includes a voltage-controlled oscillator and a loop filter. Furthermore, the loop filter includes a switched-capacitor equivalent resistor. In Fig. 4, the switched capacitor circuit (48) is provided between a capacitor (C1) and the reference voltage. The Examiner's position that capacitor C_R corresponds to the first capacitor of the present invention and the capacitor (C1) and switches (Q1 and Q2) correspond to the switched capacitor circuit of the present invention is incorrect. In fact, the specification of Klemmer discloses that the switched capacitor circuit (48) includes the capacitor C_R and the switches (Q1 and Q2) (See. Col. 4, lines 43-45). Therefore, Klemmer discloses that the switched capacitor circuit is provided after the first capacitor, and as a result it cannot be between the input

terminal and the first capacitor. Thus, Klemmer fails to disclose that the switched capacitor circuit is provided between the input terminal and the first capacitor. Furthermore, MOS transistors cannot be used in the switched capacitor circuit of Klemmer, and as a result the circuit size of the entire switched capacitor filter cannot be reduced.

In contrast, independent claim 1 recites a switched capacitor filter for receiving a current signal and outputting a voltage signal, the switched capacitor filter including at least a first capacitor provided between an input terminal for the current signal and a reference voltage, a switched capacitor circuit provided between the input terminal and the first capacitor; and a second capacitor provided in parallel to the first capacitor and the switched capacitor circuit. Therefore, the switched capacitor circuit of the present invention is provided between the input terminal and the first capacitor. As a result, a sufficiently large voltage is applied to the switched capacitor circuit, while maintaining a reduced capacitance value. Therefore, the modest capacitance value can be realized using a MOS capacitor and the circuit size of the entire switched capacitor filter can be reduced.

Turning to claim 6, as amended, the claim recites a feedback system for feeding back an output clock generated on the basis of an input clock to make the output clock have a predetermined characteristic, the feedback system including at least a charge pump circuit for generating a charge current, on the basis of a phase difference between the input clock and a feedback clock, a loop filter for receiving the charge current as an input, and an output clock generator circuit for generating the output clock, on the basis of an output signal from the loop filter. Furthermore, the loop filter includes a first capacitor provided between an input terminal for the charge current and a reference voltage, a switched capacitor circuit provided between the input terminal and the first capacitor, and a second capacitor provided in parallel to the first

capacitor and the switched capacitor circuit. Therefore, for at least the same reasons stated above, Klemmer fails to disclose each and every element of independent claim 6.

At a minimum, Klemmer fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of independent claims 1 and 6 because Klemmer fails to recite the foregoing elements of claims 1 and 6. Thus, it is clear that Klemmer does not anticipate claims 1 and 6 under §102(b).

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1 and 6.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,016,450 (hereinafter “Lin”) in view of Dosho et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,995,607 (hereinafter “Dosho”). This rejection with respect to claims 1-12 is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Dosho is not prior art to the present application because it does not qualify as prior art under 102(a) and (b) and as a result 103(c) applies. Dosho is not prior art to the present application under §102(a) because the priority date of the present application predates the publication date of the Dosho reference. Specifically, Dosho has a U.S. publication date of December 30, 2004, while the present application properly claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) to Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2004-093254, filed on March 26, 2004. Furthermore, Dosho is not prior art under §102(b) because the priority date of the Dosho reference does not predate the present application U.S. filing date by more than one year. Specifically, Dosho has a U.S. filing date of March 15, 2004, while the present application properly claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) to Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2004-093254, filed on March 26, 2004. Applicant submits herewith a certified English-language

translation of JP 2004-093254 in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §119(b)(3) to perfect the claim of priority. Thus, Dosho represents §102(e) prior art.

However, in this case, because Dosho is a §102(e) reference, §103(c) applies and the Dosho reference cannot be applied as prior art because the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the claimed invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. Specifically, Dosho and the present application are both assigned to "Matsushita Electric Industrial Co."

Since Dosho does not qualify as prior art to the present application, the obviousness rejection of claims 1-12 based in-part on Dosho should be withdrawn. Claims 1-12 are consequently patentable.

Conclusion

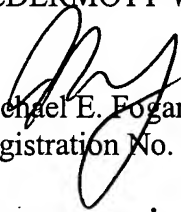
The Applicants have addressed all rejections/objection raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below.

Application No.: 10/594,398

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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